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15. (amended) The adhesive band according to claim 10 wherein said band is applied on both sides of a sheet.

16. (amended) The adhesive band according to claim 10 wherein said band is applied to a sheet by a method selected from the group consisting of manual application, application by a suitable device, and application by a printer.

Please add the following new claims:

17. (new) The sheet according to claim 2, wherein an adhesive strip is provided on an edge selected from the group consisting of an upper edge, a lower edge, and a lateral edge.

18. (new) The sheet according to claim 2, wherein an adhesive strip is close to the edge of the sheet.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending.

The title and the claims are amended to more particularly state the subject matter of Applicant's invention.

The specification is amended to correct obvious typographical errors and to make the required claim of priority.

New claims 17 and 18 are added and claims 3 and 4 are amended to depend only from claim 1 (rather than claim 1 or claim 2) to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

None of the amendments constitutes new matter.

According to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1), pages containing the replacement paragraphs, showing amendments, are attached hereto.

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The claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

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CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENTS

1. (amended) A sheet [Sheet prepared beforehand] for permanent [the] binding to one or more additional sheets, [characterised in that it provides a glue or both sides adhesive tape strip] having an adhesive strip comprising an adhesive element selected from the group consisting of a glue and a two-sided tape, wherein the tape is adhesive on both surfaces, along at least one of its edges[, or close to the same edge], and a silicone material band, [realasably] releasably placed on said glue or [both sides] adhesive tape strip and having at least a portion not coupled to said glue or [both sides] adhesive tape strip, such that the uncoupled portion may be used to grasp the silicone band during its removal and the binding.

2. (amended) The sheet [Sheet] according to claim 1, [characterised in that it provides said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip,] having an adhesive strip and a releasably placed [the relevant] silicone band [on both sides,] on opposite surfaces.

3. (amended) The sheet [Sheet] according to claim 1 [or 2, characterised in that the glue or both sides] wherein an adhesive [tape] strip [on the sheets] is provided on an edge selected from the group consisting of an upper [or] edge, a lower edge, and a lateral edge.

4. (amended) The sheet [Sheet] according to claim 1 [or 2, characterised in that], wherein an [the glue or both sides] adhesive [tape] strip [on the sheets] is close to the edge of the sheet [provided on a lateral edge].

5. (amended) The sheet [Sheet] according to claim 1 [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said sheets are realised] as comprised in a continuous snap out of sequential sheets, provided with lateral dragging bands, wherein the uncoupled [said grasping] portion of the silicone band [being] is coupled by weakening lines with the band of the following sequential sheet.

6. (amended) The sheet [Sheet] according to claim 1 [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said] wherein a portion of the silicone band is larger than said glue or [both sides] adhesive tape strip, and can be folded outwardly during [the] bonding, said portion of the silicone band larger than the glue or [both sides] adhesive tape strip being the [grasping] uncoupled portion.

7. (amended) A method for irreversibly binding at least two sheets together, comprising:

(i) superimposing the sheet [Sheet] according to claim 1 [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that to make its binding, it is superimposed to other sheets to be bound, being them prepared or not according to the invention, and thus] over a second sheet; [the different projecting grasping portion are grasped and drawn at the same time to uncover the various glue or both sides adhesive tape strips]

(ii) grasping the uncoupled portion of the silicone band; and

(iii) pulling the uncoupled portion of the silicone band so as to uncover the glue or adhesive tape strip and bind the two sheets together.

8. (amended) A method for aligning rectangular sheets to be permanently bound comprising (i) placing the sheets in a device that [Device for packaging and binding sheets, characterised in that it] provides at least two [90°] adjacent projecting sides oriented at a 90 degree angle to each other [upon which resting the sheets to be bound] and (ii) apposing the edges of the sheets with the projecting sides of the device so that the corners of the sheets fitting within the edges of the device are superimposed.

9. (amended) A device for use [Device] according to claim 8, [characterised in that it] which further provides a silicone zone [in correspondence of] in an area corresponding to the glue or [both sides] adhesive tape strip of the sheets, wherein the zone prevents attachment of a sheet [to avoid that a sheet attaches] to the [same] device during [the] binding.

10. (amended) An adhesive [Adhesive] band to permanently bind loose sheets[, characterised in that it comprises] comprising a releasable silicone material support, having a substantially elongated shape [, slightly attachable by the glue, alternatively] alternately providing on one side portions provided with cold activated glue and shorter portions without glue.

11. (amended) The adhesive [Adhesive] band according to claim 10[, characterised in that said] wherein the band is continuous and comprises sections which each comprise a portion provided with cold activated glue and a shorter portion without glue, and having, at the end of each section [the support providing] a feature selected from the group consisting of a cut facilitation, [or] a breaking line [lines], [and/or] an

optical signal and a [or] mechanical signal to indicate [the] a cutting point [to suitable apparatuses to automatically apply it on sheets].

12. (amended) The adhesive [Adhesive] band according to claim 10[or 11], [characterised in that] wherein the function of the portion [portions] without glue is [that of being out of the sheet] to provide the opportunity [of] for an easy removal of the silicone support which after the application of the glue on the sheet has the function of preventing undesired adhesion prior to [protecting from eventual gluing not wished before the] binding.

13. (amended) The adhesive [Adhesive] band according to claim 10 [one of the preceding claims 10-12, characterised in that] wherein said band is wounded, the outer surface of the support band being preferably refractory to the glue.

14. (amended) The adhesive [Adhesive] band according to claim 10 [one of the preceding claims 10-13, characterised in that] wherein the glue-providing portions have glue on two surfaces[said support provides both sides adhesive portions, i.e. a second support comprised of any suitable material providing glue on both sides], one of which is destined to adhere to the sheet to be bound, the second one being destined to adhere to the sheet that during the binding will be coupled to the sheet providing the band.

15. (amended) The adhesive [Adhesive] band according to claim 10 [one of the preceding claims 10-14, characterised in that] wherein said band is applied on both sides of a sheet.

16. (amended) The adhesive [Adhesive] band according to claim 10 [one of the preceding claims 10-15, characterised in that] wherein said band is applied to a sheet by a method selected from the group consisting of manual application, application [manually, or] by a suitable device, and application by a printer [provided along the path within the printer].

REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS SHOWING AMENDMENTS

Paragraph 80 at page 7 lines 5-8 of the specification is amended as follows:

-- In figures 14, 15 and 16 and 17 and 18, it can be seen the sheet 41 for continuous [continuos] feeding, wherein the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 42, along with the silicone band 43, is provided on the upper side of the alternated sheets, instead of on the lateral edge. --

Paragraph 88 at page 7 line 35 through page 8 line 2 of the specification is amended as follows:

-- Whichever is its structure, band 201 according to the invention, preferably comprised of protection silicone material releasable by the various glues employed, provides a glue zone 202 to be placed on the sheet 203 (see figures 22 and 23 and 24) for coupling with the same in the application zone [104] 204 (see figure 25). --

Paragraph 89 at page 8 lines 3-7 of the specification is amended as follows:

-- On the continuous band 201, at the end of the glue zone 202, a zone 205 without glue is provided, for the subsequent removal of the silicone material band, followed by a zone [106] 206 serving to reveal, by apparatus or visually, the end of a band section and the beginning of the following one to be applied on another sheet 203.--